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# Watershed Councils Act Committee Review

NRAE Interim Committee Staff

August 21, 2024

# Watershed Councils Act – Summary

- In 2020, the Utah Legislature passed the **Watershed Councils Act**, which authorized the creation of the Utah Watersheds Council (state council) and twelve local councils.
- The state council operates within the Department of Natural Resources and is staffed by the Division of Water Resources.
- The Natural Resources, Agriculture, & Environment Interim Committee is required to conduct a review of the Act and submit a report of the committee's recommendations before 2026.



# Review of Watershed Councils Act

## The NRAE Interim Committee shall:

- Direct a review beginning no later than Oct. 1, 2024, and ending prior to Sep. 30, 2025.
  - Consider the extent to which the councils have operated in the **public interest** and served as **valuable forums for water-related discussions** among stakeholders.
  - Are the public purposes and interests for which the councils were originally created still **relevant** and being **adequately addressed** through these councils? (See Utah Code [73-10g-309](#))
- Submit a report of recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature before Jan. 1, 2026. See [Utah Code 73-10g-309](#).

**August 2024:**  
Begin review  
DWRe presentation  
Submit questions

**Fall 2024:**  
Revisit review and  
address questions

**Before Jan. 2026:**  
Submit recommendations  
and any proposed  
legislation



**Submit your questions for DWRe and the councils to NRAE staff by August 31<sup>st</sup>**



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